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Reflection #3

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*After viewing everyone's ARP presentations, please discuss the relevance of Action Research to both the student and teacher and their families and how your Action Research Project ties into the Mission Statement of the School of Education.*

A literature review is an in depth evaluation of a topic or issue of a particular subject area. There are basic guidelines when creating a literature review; your topic must address an everyday problem in a school. Literature reviews must be specific to a particular population that is directly affected by this problem. In my case my topic will cover effective instructional methods when working with ELLs in a class room. I want to prove that direct, implicit instruction during the morning hours (8:00 – 8:37 a.m.) in a small group of six students will help guide and drive instruction to help language development. However, my research will prove that a co-teaching strategy is the instructional method that would work best. As a result, teachers, students, and parents will be directly affected by this research. All of the ARP’s that were presented in our class were current issues relevant to classrooms, topics that are significant for student development. The driving force behind our research is the Brooklyn College’s mission statement (***Diversity, collaboration, social justice, critical self-reflection, and reflective practices***) are critical to developing and practicing our research.

Action research would not exist without the constant need to improve education, and more specifically instruction. As a classroom teacher I am constantly thinking of ways to enhance my instruction, my methods, and strategies to improve student learning. No matter the child I feel successful when my students are showing growth, and can demonstrate their understanding of a concept. However it doesn’t always work that way, and hence, there’s a need to dive deeper to look closely at something that needs to be revamped, or re-structured.

Students are our main concern; as a classroom teacher and as a student’s of this class, I believe we as educators and now researchers viewed the schools we work in with a different lens, we were now more critical more observant with our children more vigilant about helping and improving a situation and very careful with our choices. We have to keep in mind that our students make up a diverse population that we will be working with; in doing so we need to be attentive to the needs of our students. Collaboration is another aspect to consider. My research consists of collaboration; in fact it’s the basis of my researcher. All of the presentations demonstrated some need for collaboration with parents other faculty members and the school.

Social justice, critical self-reflection, and reflective practices are aspect of our action research projects that will be demonstrated throughout our work, especially reflective practices. Social justice plays a key role in working with students. We need to make sure each student is treated with the respect; we need to be compassionate to their needs and always make them feel heard and understood, especially if our research covers a sensitive topic.

As I was conducting my research, I began think about my students. Because I work with ELL’s I need a way to teach and have them retain the information given, conducting research on this very topic has helped me become critically self-reflected on what works and what did not work. My parents were directly affected by this process because they too noticed the growth in their children. Over time I hope to continue to help these students become productive members of their school community.